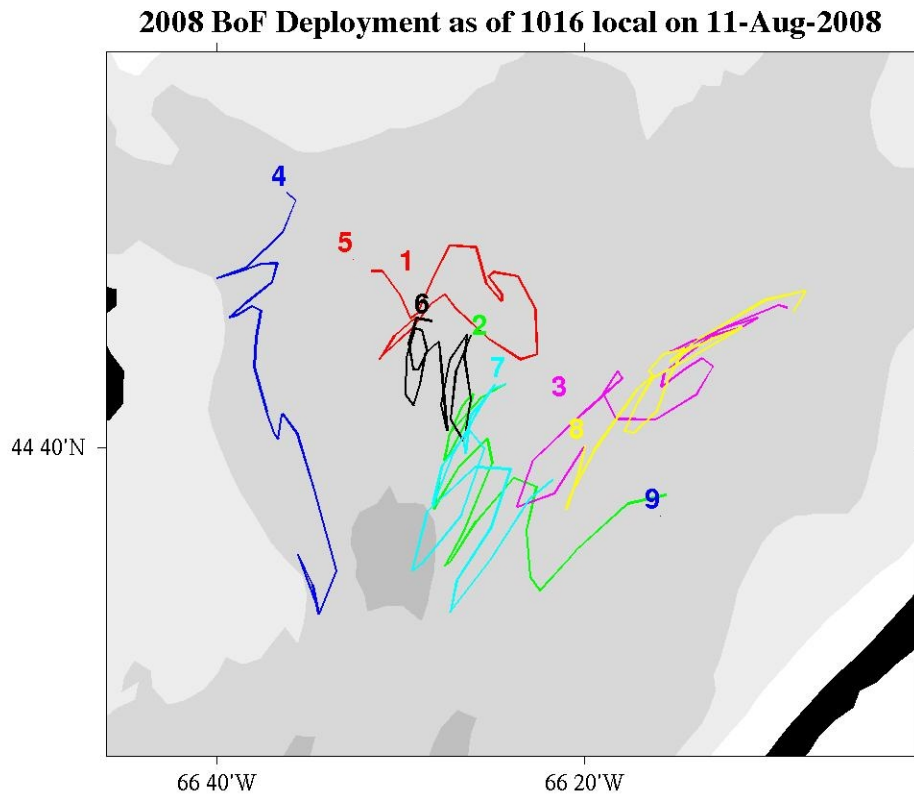


Drifters

A total of nine drifters were deployed on 9 August. Three of them were surface drifters (#'s 1-3) and six were drogued to 15 meters (#'s 4-9). They were released along a transect (similar to previous years) running north of Grand Manan towards the Digby Peninsula (see drifter log table and Figure below).



The drogues used on these deployments had various diameters and lengths. The original plan was to deploy them together in order to compare the relative water-following characteristics but that experiment was postponed in an attempt to capture another realization of the Bay of Fundy gyre. Assuming that the drogues have approximately the same drag, they were deployed at separate stations along the transect. The three surface drifters (1-3) were deployed alongside drogued units (6-8) so that some comparison can be made, at least, between surface and drogued units.

Two of the drogued units (#5 and #9) failed to transmit subsequent to being deployed. While the cause of this failure is unclear, it is possible that the units either a) had insufficient flotation or b) the vertical tether tangled with the surface units which could have submerged the transmitters below the surface. These were the larger 1.6 meter diameter drogues borrowed a few days prior to sailing.

While the units have been in the water only a few days at the time of this writing, they appear to be entrained in the gyre in general. The northwestern-most unit, #4, was advected, as usual, quickly down the east side of Grand Manan and may actually exit the gyre but the other six working units appear to be headed clockwise around the gyre. The surface-drogue pair #1 and #6 have very different paths but the other two pairs are fairly coherent with the drogued units closely following the surface units.